

What is claimed is:

- 1 ✓ 1. A method of operating a vending machine, comprising:  
2 receiving a payment;  
3 receiving a product selection;  
4 → offering an information item;  
5 receiving a destination address;  
6 dispensing a product indicated by the product selection; and  
7 transmitting the information item to a location specified by the received  
8 destination address.
- 1 ✓ 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the information item before  
2 said offering step. *what happened to the offering step? if info has already been selected?*
- 1 ✓ 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said selecting the information item is based on  
2 the received product selection.
- 1 ✓ 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said payment is received in the form of  
2 currency.
- 1 ✓ 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said product selection is received via a push  
2 button on the vending machine.
- 1 ✓ 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering occurs before said receiving the  
2 payment.
- 1 ✓ 7. *rule 83* The method of claim 1, wherein said offering occurs after said dispensing.
- 1 ✓ 8. *rule 83* The method of claim 1, further comprising providing change only if said  
2 information item is not accepted.

- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the information item is a video recording.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the information item is an audio recording.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the product is one of a beverage and a snack.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination address is an e-mail address.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering includes displaying a notice at  
2 said vending machine.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting said information item at  
2 said vending machine.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said information item is an audio recording  
2 and said presenting includes audibly reproducing said information item at said vending  
3 machine.
- 1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said information item is a video recording and  
2 said presenting includes displaying said information item at said vending machine.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering includes presenting a menu of  
2 information items to a customer at the vending machine.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said presenting includes displaying said menu  
2 of information items on a display device.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said display device is a touch screen.
- 1 20. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting a customer to enter the  
2 destination address.

1 21. The method of claim 1, wherein said offering includes stating a price for the  
2 information item.

1 22. A method of operating a vending machine, comprising:  
2 offering a first product and a first information item as a first package for a first  
3 price;  
4 offering a second product and a second information item as a second package  
5 for a second price;  
6 receiving a selection of one of said first package and said second package;  
7 receiving a payment;  
8 receiving a destination address;  
9 dispensing the first product and transmitting the first information item to a  
10 location specified by the received destination address if the first package was selected;  
11 and  
12 dispensing the second product and transmitting the second information item to a  
13 location specified by the received destination address if the second package was  
14 selected.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the first price is the same as the second price.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second products are beverages.

1 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second products are snacks.

1 26. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second information items are  
2 audio recordings.

1 27. The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second information items are  
2 video recordings.

1 28. A vending system, comprising:

2 payment means for receiving a payment;  
3 selection means for receiving a product selection;  
4 offer means for offering an information item;  
5 input means for receiving a destination address;  
6 dispensing means, responsive to the payment means and the selection means,  
7 for dispensing a product indicated by the product selection;  
8 transmitting means for transmitting the information item to a location specified  
9 by the received destination address; and  
10 a front panel on which the selection means and the offer means are installed.


1 29. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the offer means includes a display  
2 which displays a notice concerning the information item.

1 30. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the input means includes a keyboard.

1 31. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the input means includes a touch  
2 screen.

1 32. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the selection means includes a push  
2 button.

1 33. The vending system of claim 28, wherein the payment means includes at least  
2 one of a coin acceptor and a bill acceptor.

1 34.  A method of operating a vending machine, comprising:  
2 receiving a payment;  
3 receiving a product selection;  
4 offering an information item;  
5 receiving an acceptance of the information item;  
6 dispensing a product indicated by the product selection; and

7 transmitting the information item to a handheld device located in proximity to  
8 the vending machine.

1 (35.) A vending system, comprising:  
2 payment means for receiving a payment;  
3 selection means for receiving a product selection;  
4 offer means for offering an information item;  
5 input means for receiving an acceptance of the information item;  
6 dispensing means, responsive to the payment means and the selection means,  
7 for dispensing a product indicated by the product selection;  
8 transmitting means, responsive to the input means, for transmitting the  
9 information item to a hand-held device in proximity to the vending machine; and  
10 a front panel on which the selection means and the offer means are installed.

0044001-1100